

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Fourth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Fourth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.5% (656) reside in the Fourth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (124) of Fourth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 74.4% of admissions from the Fourth Middlesex Representative District were male and 25.6% were female.
- Over 55.7% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 87.4% of admissions were white non-Latino, 2.7% were black non-Latino, 3.8% were Latino, 0.6% were Asians, and 5.5% were other racial categories.
- 63.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 13.7% were married, and 16.2% reported not to be married now.
- 30.5% of admissions had less than high school education, 45.6% completed high school, and 23.9% had more than high school education.
- 43.6% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 16.5% of those admitted were homeless.
- 13.7% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Fourth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

| Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|---------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-----|
| Fourth Middlesex Representative District | | | | | | | |
| | Total | Alcohol | Marijuana | Cocaine | Crack | Heroin | IDU |
| FY '95 | 417 | 364 | 115 | 84 | 38 | 30 | 24 |
| FY '96 | 399 | 343 | 125 | 90 | 61 | 42 | 38 |
| FY '97 | 541 | 462 | 181 | 107 | 90 | 84 | 56 |
| FY '98 | 505 | 428 | 159 | 82 | 44 | 84 | 61 |
| FY '99 | 592 | 497 | 169 | 115 | 74 | 124 | 97 |
| FY '00 | 589 | 475 | 179 | 117 | 65 | 171 | 127 |
| FY '01 | 656 | 507 | 191 | 125 | 76 | 174 | 131 |

- Since FY 1995, residents of Fourth Middlesex Representative District reported a steady increase in heroin and alcohol use. Heroin use increased by more than four-fold and alcohol use by 39%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting crack use doubled, and, marijuana and cocaine use increased by 66% and 48%, respectively.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Fourth Middlesex Representative District.

| Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001 | | | | | |
|---|---------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Alcohol | Heroin | Marijuana | Cocaine | Crack |
| District | 54.4 % | 24.5% | 10.2% | 2.3% | 2.1% |
| State | 46.5% | 35.9% | 6.5% | 3.9% | 3.4% |

- While heroin, cocaine, and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol and marijuana was higher within your District.